

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EURE-00 SAJ-01 IO-13 /072 W

-----211510Z 128546 /43

P R 211247Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8684

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OLSO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: THE VAST MAJORITY OF BASQUES HAVE GLEEFULLY GREETED THE  
GOVT'S ANNOUNCED TOLERANCE OF THE FLYING OF THE BASQUE  
FLAG.

REF: MADRID 444

1. AMCONSUL BILBAO REPRTS THAT THE REACTION IN THE BASQUE  
PROVINCES TO THE GOVT'S ANNOUNCED "TOLERANCE" OF THE BASQUE  
FLAG ("IKKURINA") IS ONE OF WIDESPREAD JUBILATION. BASQUE  
FLAGS ARE VISIBLE ALMOST EVERYWHERE AND SIDEWALK HAWKERS  
AND DEPARTMENT STORES ARE DOING A LAND OFFICE BUSINESS INP  
IKKURINA LAPEL PINS AND SIMILAR DEVICES.

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2. NOT SURPRISINGLY HOWEVER THE REACTION IN THE FOUR  
AFFECTED PROVINCES HAS NOT BEEN UNIFORMLY POSITIVE. AMCON-  
SUL BILBAO ALSO ADVISES THAT THE GOVT'S ANNOUNCEMENT  
CREATED NEAR CONSTERNATION AMONG THE MINORITY OF MORE  
CONSERVATIVE AND REGIME LINKED ELEMENTS. THE CIVIL GOV-  
ERNORS OF VIZXAYA AND GUIPUZCOA HAVE RESIGNED IN "

DISGREEMENT" WITH THE GOVT'S POLICY, AND IT IS RUMORED THAT THE OTHER TWO PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS ALSO WILL BE REPLACED BEFORE LONG. THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF VIZCAY (A CREATURE OF THE OLD REGIME) ALSO BLASTED THE OFFICIAL TOLERANCE STATING THAT THE

GOVT HAD, IN EFFECT, ACTED IN A PARTISAN POLITICAL WAY. SINCE THE IKURRINA " IS THE FLAG OF THE BASQUE NATIONALIST PARTY (PNV) NOT THE BASQUE PEOPLE."

3. FOR THE RECORD THE IKURRINA WAS DESIGNED IN THE LATE NINETEETH CENTURY BY SABINO ARAN GOIRI, CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE IDEOLOGICAL FATHER OF MODERN BASQUE NATIONALISM. BY THE LATE 1890'S THE FLAG HAD COME TO BE USED AS AN UNOFFICIAL SYMBOL OF THE BASQUE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. IN THE 1930'S IT WAS ADOPTED BY THE PNV AS ITS OFFICIAL FLAG. THEN, IN 1936 JOSE ANTONIO AGUIRRE, PRESIDENT OF THE BASQUE REPUBLIC, SIGNED A DECREE DESIGNATING THE IKURRINA AS THE OFFICIAL FLAG OF Euzkadi, THE BASQUE COUNTRY. AND IT IS CONSIDERED AS SUCH TODAY BY ALL MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, BASQUES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 77 MADRID 444  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** THE VAST MAJORITY OF BASQUES HAVE GLEEFULLY GREETED THE GOVT'S ANNOUNCED TOLERANCE OF THE FLYING OF THE BASQUE FLAG.  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f00861d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009